

IBHS Showcase States



The Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) created the Showcase State model to:

- prevent injuries and deaths caused by natural disasters
- protect public and private property from disaster impacts
- create a disaster resilient economy

Because reducing natural disaster losses is not the sole responsibility of any single entity, the Showcase State partnership is a cost effective way to use existing human and financial resources to protect people and property from the devastating effects of natural disasters.

IBHS is a non profit association of the insurance industry that engages in communication, education, engineering and research. Our mission is to reduce deaths, injuries, property damage, economic losses and human suffering caused by natural disasters.

Making communities safer places to live, work and play through:

- Public-private partnerships
- Education and outreach
- Action to make homes and businesses safer from natural disasters

Benefits of the Showcase State Model

The Showcase State framework provides a comprehensive and systematic model that can help a state, its communities and businesses

- raise public awareness about the need for natural disaster loss reduction
- educate stakeholders about how to reduce or prevent damage
- motivate action to make homes and businesses safer

The Showcase State elements listed below are measurable activities that help establish disaster protection in the long term, and to take immediate action to begin to reduce costs associated with natural disasters.

Key Partners and Activities

Any state exposed to natural hazards that could produce catastrophic financial and social losses should consider a Showcase State partnership.

Key partners include government and insurers, and a broad range of individuals from non profit organizations, citizen groups, and businesses of all kinds.

A successful Showcase State should:

- enforce a statewide model building code and sound land use practices
- obtain a Governor’s Executive Order
- designate personnel to help manage the Showcase State activities
- monitor and evaluate Showcase State activities and their impacts

Showcase State Elements — A “How-to” for Disaster Resistance & Resilience		
1	Formal commitment and strategic plan	Obtain Governor’s Executive Order to formalize partnership. Create 5-year strategy with 1-year action plans.
2	Statewide hazard and risk assessment	Identify hazards and what is at risk statewide to help prioritize disaster resistant actions.
3	Business recovery alliances	Develop partnerships with businesses for coordinated mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
4	Building code	Adopt and enforce a statewide model code that incorporates hazard resistant design.
5	Land use plans	Address relevant hazards in state level land use decisions. Encourage adoption of local plans that incorporate hazards and mitigation strategies.
6	Response and recovery plans	Maintain a state emergency response plan. Develop a state post-disaster recovery plan coordinated with local post-disaster plans.
7	Rating and regulatory systems	Improve compliance and participation in natural hazard related rating and regulatory systems (e.g. the National Flood Insurance Program, NFIP Community Rating System, fire suppression rating, Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule [BCEGS], etc.)
8	Lifeline protection	Incorporate disaster protection measures into public and private lifeline utilities, infrastructure and critical facilities.
9	Community-level disaster resistance	Encourage the development of disaster resistant communities within the state and coordinate at local and regional levels.
10	Public awareness and outreach	Develop programs to increase the public’s awareness of natural hazards and how to reduce or prevent damage.
11	School, college and university curricula	Incorporate natural hazard awareness and reduction into educational programs.
12	Protection of child care centers	Support IBHS and its partners in the nonstructural retrofit of nonprofit child care centers.
13	Professional training	Conduct mitigation training for building design and construction professionals and others to incorporate disaster resistance into policy and practice.
14	Incentives and disincentives	Identify existing incentives and disincentives for hazard loss reduction action. Develop and enact appropriate incentives or adjustments.